

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR PSYCHOLOGY

**CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION AS A PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH
PSYCHOLOGIST FOR PERSONS WHO DID NOT COMPLETE AN
INTERNSHIP**

The assumption underlying the following criteria is that research psychology, like other areas of specialization in psychology, is characterized by a clearly discernible trend towards professionalism and an increasing demand by psychologists for professional status. In this regard the goals of the following criteria are:

- to allow suitably qualified persons to register as professional research psychologists;
- to ensure that the level of skill of such persons truly justifies the label “professional”.

To comply with the conditions for registration in the category research psychology, persons who did not complete an internship must satisfy all three requirements of the following criteria:

1. Research training:

A Research Master’s degree in Psychology that is recognized by the Professional Board for Psychology, or a Doctoral degree in Psychology awarded on the basis of research.

2. Research experience:

Employment for at least 18 months in a full time research post in psychology; or employment for at least three years in a lecturing or research post in a university department of psychology.

3. Research competence:

At least twenty (20) peer reviewed publications in Psychology which were peer reviewed and 10 publications in Psychology must be accredited by the South African Journal of Psychology and rated by National Research Foundation (NRF).

The rationale underlying this criterion is that peer evaluation of the products of research is the best available test of research competence. Publication on the basis of peer review implies that the quality and scientific value of the author’s research will be recognizable by other researchers in his/her field.

Applicants are required to submit copies of 20 articles in question for approval by the Education, Training and Registration Committee of the Board, accompanied by a short curriculum vitae.

Once approved, applicants are required to successfully pass the National Board Examination and Register as Research Psychologists.

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